

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5906
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 02953

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV BQG
SUBJECT: SOVIET MFA OFFICIAL ON FRG CAUCUS MEETINGS
IN WEST BERLIN AND INNER-GERMAN RELATIONS

REFS: (A) USBER 230 AND PREVIOUS
(B) BONN 2627 AND PREVIOUS

BEGIN SUMMARY. IN A RECENT DISCUSSION WITH AN OFFICIAL
FROM THE FRG EMBASSY IN MOSCOW, THE SOVIET MFA DEPARTMENT
CHIEF RESPONSIBLE FOR GERMAN AFFAIRS (BONDARENKO)
ADMITTED THAT THE QUADRIpartite AGREEMENT (QA) MAKES A
DISTINCTION BETWEEN MEETINGS IN BERLIN OF FRG
PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES AND FRG PARTY CAUCUSES IN
THAT ONLY THE FORMER ARE REQUIRED TO DEAL WITH QUESTIONS
OF FRG-WEST BERLIN TIES. AFTER CONCEDED THIS POINT,
BONDARENKO RETURNED TO THE ARGUMENT THAT CAUCUS
MEETINGS IN BERLIN ARE DEMONSTRATIVE IN CHARACTER. HE
ALSO SAID THAT THE PRESENTLY-ATTAINED LEVEL OF FRG-GDR
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COOPERATION "MUST BE EXAMINED" AND INTIMATED THAT THE
FRG/GDR TIES SHOULD NOT BECOME TOO CLOSE. END SUMMARY.

1. AT THE FEBRUARY 8 BONN GROUP MEETING, THE FRG REP
(VON BRAUNMUEHL) REPORTED ON A DISCUSSION ON THE
SUBJECT OF FRG PARTY CAUCUS MEETINGS IN BERLIN BETWEEN
AN EMBOFF OF THE FRG EMBASSY IN MOSCOW AND BONDARENKO,

THE HEAD OF THE THIRD EUROPEAN DIVISION OF THE SOVIET MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (AUSTRIA, FRG, GDR, AND "WEST BERLIN"). THE DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE ON FEBRUARY 7 IN THE RESIDENCE OF THE FRG AMBASSADOR TO THE USSR ON THE OCCASION OF A LUNCHEON FOR CDU PARTY TREASURER WALTHER LEISLER-KIEP, WHO WAS IN MOSCOW FEBRUARY 6-7 FOR POLITICAL TALKS WITH THE SOVIETS.

2. VON BRAUNMUEHL SAID THAT BONDARENKO HAD TOLD KIEP ON FEBRUARY 6 THAT THE ALLIES HAD GIVEN THE SOVIETS ASSURANCES THAT THE AGENDAS OF FRG CAUCUS MEETINGS IN BERLIN WOULD DEAL WITH BERLIN SUBJECTS. WHEN THE FRG EMBOFF ASKED ABOUT THIS AT THE LUNCH, BONDARENKO MODIFIED THIS BY SAYING THAT, IN RESPONSE TO SOVIET QUESTIONS DURING THE QA NEGOTIATIONS ABOUT THE NEED FOR SUCH MEETINGS IN BERLIN, THE ALLIES HAD REPLIED THAT THEY WERE TO BE SEEN IN THE CONTEXT OF THE TIES BETWEEN BERLIN (WEST) AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC.

3. THE FRG EMBOFF ASKED IF BONDARENKO AGREED THAT A DISTINCTION HAD BEEN MADE IN THE QA BETWEEN BUNDESTAG AND BUNDESRAT COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND MEETINGS OF PARTY PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUSES; AND THAT A BERLIN CONNECTION WAS REQUIRED ONLY FOR THE COMMITTEE MEETINGS. BONDARENKO MUTTERED SOME, THEN RELUCTANTLY BUT CLEARLY AGREED THAT THIS WAS THE CASE. THE EMBOFF SAID THAT IN CONFIDENTIAL

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THE LIGHT OF THIS HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THE SOVIETS RAISED OBJECTIONS CONCERNING THE AGENDAS FOR CAUCUS MEETINGS IN BERLIN. BONDARENKO RESPONDED BY RETURNING TO THE ARGUMENT THAT THE MEETINGS WERE OF A DEMONSTRATIVE CHARACTER. THE BAD THING, HE SAID, WAS THAT THIS WAS ALL PLAYED UP IN THE PRESS.

4. VON BRAUNMUEHL SAID THAT FRG EMBASSY MOSCOW HAD GAINED THE IMPRESSION FROM THIS DISCUSSION THAT THE SOVIETS WERE PARTICULARLY DISTURBED BECAUSE THEY FELT THAT PRESS REPORTS UNDERLINE THE FACT THAT CAUCUS MEETINGS IN BERLIN HAVE NO DIRECT BERLIN CONNECTION. VON BRAUNMUEHL SAID HE WAS NOT AWARE THAT THIS HAD BEEN PLAYED UP. HE ALSO NOTED THAT THE FRG EMBASSY FELT THE SOVIET POSITION WAS BASED ON GDR INFLUENCE. HE COMMENTED THAT THE SOVIET UNION AND GDR SEEM TO BE GOOD AT GIVING THE IMPRESSION THAT THE OTHER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR POSITIONS WHICH THE WEST FINDS DISTURBING.

5. AT THE FEBRUARY 14 BONN GROUP MEETING, VON BRAUNMUEHL REPORTED ON A FURTHER ASPECT OF THE FEBRUARY 7 DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE FRG EMBOFF AND

BONDARENKO. THE EMBOFF HAD ALSO ASKED BONDARENKO ABOUT

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 02953

HIS REMARKS OF THE DAY BEFORE TO KIEP ABOUT THE STATE
OF FRG-GDR RELATIONS AS PRESENTED IN THE WEST GERMAN
NEWS MAGAZINE "DER SPIEGEL." BONDARENKO HAD TOLD KIEP
THAT "SPIEGEL" GIVES THE IMPRESSION THAT THE GDR IS
"IN THE FRG'S POCKET" AND THAT THE GDR IS BEING PULLED
EVER CLOSER INTO THE FRG'S SPHERE.

6. THE FRG EMBOFF ASKED BONDARENKO WHETHER THE SOVIETS
WERE CONCERNED ABOUT THE LEVEL OF COOPERATION WHICH
HAD BEEN REACHED BETWEEN THE TWO STATES IN GERMANY.
BONDARENKO REPLIED THAT THIS COOPERATION HAD TO BE
EXAMINED. THE EMBOFF NOTED THAT THE FRG'S RELATIONS
WITH THE GDR WERE MUCH LESS DEVELOPED THAN ITS
RELATIONS WITH OTHER NEIGHBORS AND THAT IN MANY AREAS
THERE WAS MORE EXCHANGE BETWEEN THE FRG AND THE SOVIET
UNION THAN BETWEEN THE FRG AND THE GDR. WHEN THE
EMBOFF ASKED IF THE SOVIETS WERE CURRENTLY EXAMINING
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THE LEVEL OF FRG-GDR RELATIONS, BONDARENKO LAUGHED BUT
DID NOT SAY NO.

7. THE EMBOFF ASKED HOW THE SOVIETS VIEWED STATE
SECRETARY WISCHNEWSKI'S RECENT TRIP TO EAST BERLIN
(REF B). BONDARENKO REPLIED THAT WISCHNEWSKI HAD
ALWAYS BEEN A MAN WITH GOOD POLITICAL INSTINCTS. HIS
DISCUSSIONS, BONDARENKO BELIEVED, HAD HELPED TO CALM
THINGS DOWN. THE FRG EMBOFF THEN SAID THAT LAST YEAR
THE FRG HAD DEVELOPED A LONG LIST OF ITEMS FOR
NEGOTIATION WITH THE GDR. HE NOTED THAT ONLY A FEW OF
THESE HAD BEEN THE OBJECT OF LAST FALL'S TALKS
WITH THE GDR, BUT BONDARENKO DID NOT REACT.
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